## **McGinnis Pond**

31.3 acres Canterbury

This relatively small pond has had a long history of providing excellent bass fishing. Recent heavy development within the watershed has undoubtedly impacted water quality but bass numbers remain high. The dominant size group was fish over 15 inches although good numbers of fish from 8 to 15 inches were also present. Of concern was the low number of smaller fish. Average weights were good for all size groups and growth was rapid, well above the state average.

Bluegill were also abundant and exhibited a good size range. Excellent average weights and rapid growth were observed. A high proportion of the fish were in larger size groups (over 8 inches) providing great action for anglers. Black crappie were moderately abundant with larger fish most common. Growth of black crappie was better than most other ponds in Delaware. Some fish well over citation size (1 pound, 12 inch live release) were observed.

In March 2010, In March 2009, Eastern Shore Bassmasters installed a number of brush piles in the lake to improve fish habitat. Several are marked at the pond by red-topped poles so they can be located by anglers.

Yellow perch have decreased in abundance in recent years but still provide another fishing opportunity, especially in the early spring or during years with ice cover. A wide size range was evident with fish from 5 to 13 inches. White perch have also been taken by anglers but are not common.

Occasional gizzard shad and common carp have been evident in recent years but have not become abundant as in many other Kent County ponds. American eel, golden shiner, chain pickerel, and brown bullhead were common throughout the pond.



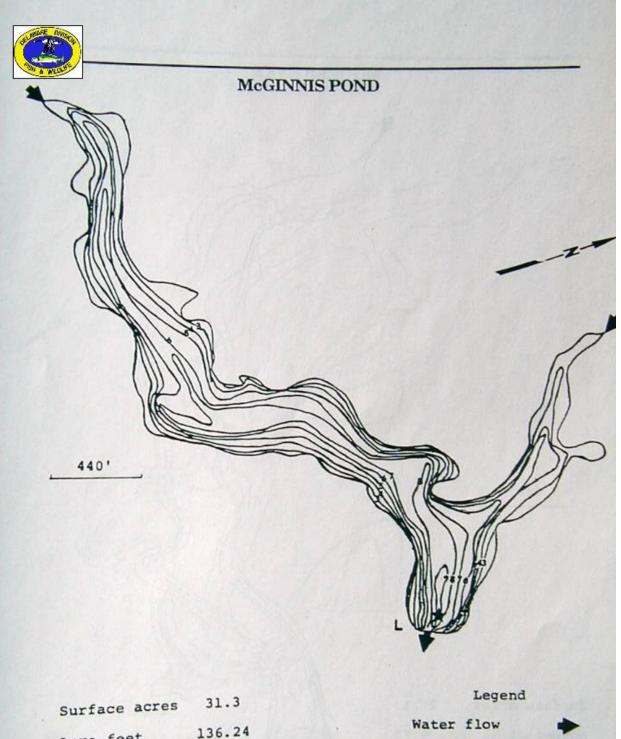
## **VEGETATION**

The woodlands surrounding this pond have been gradually giving way to residential development in recent years but some wooded areas still remain due to the portion of state-owned shoreline. Spatterdock beds were present throughout much of the pond and offer vegetative cover to the fish populations. Duckweed and filamentous algae were present in some areas throughout the pond and often float around at the whim of the prevailing wind. By late summer, the upstream portion of the pond generally has floating mats of algae throughout.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

McGinnis Pond is one of our deeper ponds and is subject to temperature stratification, e.g. different temperature layers exist within the pond during the summer months. Because the cool bottom layer does not normally circulate to the surface, dissolved oxygen levels remain low in the deepest areas during the summer months. This situation forces fish upward into warmer water than they normally prefer during the summer, so fishing along the bottom may not be effective during the warmest months.

Shore fishing is available along the face of the dam and provides access to relatively deep water. This area is particularly productive during spring and fall when temperatures may be less stable. However, river herring use the adjacent fish ladder to gain access to the pond during the spring months. It is unlawful for any person to fish within ten feet of the entrance or exit of a fish ladder or to remove fish from any ladder between March 15 and May 30.



Surface acres 31.3

Acre-feet 136.24

Maximum depth 9.0'

Mean depth 4.4'

Water flow

Launching ramp

L

Fish attractors